[Mr. James Fletcher.]

(*d*) the date from which the rise in the rates began ; and

(*e*) whether Government have made any provision for works which have been completed after the rise in rates had started, but were begun before the same ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) About 25 to 50 per cent over the schedule rates.

(*d*) From the commencement of war.

(*e*) Yes.

President: Order, order. I have requested the Secretary to place on the table of the House, so as to be available to the members of this Honourable House, an uncorrected copy of an address which it was my privilege to deliver elsewhere. I do not propose to repeat myself. But there are one or two salient features which would bear repetition and which would always be borne in mind when we are passing through the present crisis in food grains. And I shall devote a few minutes to a discussion of that topic. But before I do so, there are two points on which I should like to have the opinion and the directions of this House. I have received notice of two motions, one of felicitations on the Tunisian Victory, the other of offering the congratulations of this honourable House to His Highness the Elaya Rajah on the success—conspicuous success—achieved by him in the recent B. A. Degree Examination. Is it the pleasure of this House that these motions should be debated and voted upon or whether it would be sufficient in the opinion of this honourable House that I should say a few words and then put the propositions from the Chair ? I shall follow the directions of the House.

Mr. James Fletcher: The motions may be moved from the Chair.

REJOICINGS ON THE TUNISIAN VICTORY.

President: In the first place, notices of motion have been given by Mr. V. Sankara Menon and Mr. James Fletcher.

> "This Council wishes to express its rejoicings on the successful termination of the African Campaign by the Allies' victory in Tunisia and the glorious and praise-worthy part played by the Indian Army in the struggle."

I have elsewhere referred to this matter and taken the occasion to point out that in the opinion of many persons including myself, we celebrate this victory as the first instalment of what we hope will be a series of equally resounding victories—victories designed not so much by way of territorial or economic aggrandisement but

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by way of eradication of that well-nigh universal poison that was spreading through all the countries of the world, especially the theory started by the protagonists of race domination, race superiority, the nordic race idea, and so forth. It is to be hoped that the many circumstances which have conspired to produce this great and welcome change in the tide of affairs will be a point of departure for humanity. When working for the removal or eradication of the (semi-secular) evil in conjunction with China and India, with the United States and England and the Allies, it will be realised that the future of the world is and lies with not one particular race or creed or domination or colour. I regard therefore this victory as an earnest of the great things to come. Moreover, as I said elsewhere, the part played by our Indian Army in this particular victory, the part that they would indubitably have to play in clearing Burma, Indo-China and various other parts of Asia from the enemy, that part will also serve to harmonise, to smooth down differences and to make for that harmony which I have indicated, would be the goal to be achieved as a result of this great struggle.

The other point, which I ventured to emphasise not only in my speech elsewhere but on many other occasions, is that the way in which the races and the governments are brought together and the discovery of new and more powerful instruments of destruction and disintegration, make it clear that the old idea of sovereignties and of nationalities must give place to new ideals. It is in that dual hope and in that firm conviction that right will prevail that I wish to place before the House the resolution sponsored by Mr. V. Sankara Menon.

The motion was carried *nem con.*

FELICITATIONS TO H. H. THE ELAYA RAJA.

President : The other is a motion wishing to express the heartfelt felicitations on the splendid success achieved by His Highness the Elaya Raja of Travancore in the B.A. Degree Examination. We all rejoice to see that a scion of the Royal Family of Travancore has after a strenuous period of study not only encountered the obstacles of these examinations and surmounted them, but surmounted with such conspicuous success. I need not say that His Highness was the first in the State in Sanskrit and got a high place both in English and other subjects. It is our prayer that fortified by these studies, and by all other things that go with reflection and ratiocination, he will become increasingly fit for every responsibility, and every burden that might come to him or that he might have to share. I put this proposition to vote.

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